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Norway's Karsten Warholm wins 400m hurdles record on Tuesday | AP

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TOKYO 2020

INDIA LOSE SEMIS 2-5, TO FACE GERMANY FOR BRONZE MEDAL

Men's hockey team lead world champions Belgium for 10 minutes before penalty corner goals come back to haunt them

WOMEN SEEK HISTORY AGAINST ARGENTINA

Now, all eyes will be on Rani Rampal & Co as they face Las Leonas for a place in the final. If they do manage to beat them, it will be their first ever final. The Indian team have been on a roll, winning their last three games including a 1-0 win over Australia in quarters. The Argentina test will be a physical examination. The Dutch face Great Britain in the other semifinal

400M HURDLES FINAL: ONE FOR THE AGES

- In one of the greatest athletics finals of all time, Norway's Karsten Warholm broke his own previous 400mH world record of 46.70 seconds with a time of 45.94
- US's Rai Benjamin finished second for a time of 46.12. Brazil's Alison Dos Santos wins bronze, with a time of 46.72

3.30 pm

INDIA VS ARGENTINA IS AT 3.30 PM TODAY | P19, 20

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Armies OK with disengagement at Gogra point

Political clearance awaited from China to defuse tension there, create a buffer zone

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

AT the recent meeting of Corps Commanders of India and China, both sides agreed to disengage from the Gogra (Patrolling Point 17A) stand-off point along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. A political decision by both countries is awaited. A senior official said, "Both the Corp Commanders agreed to disengage from Gogra but the final go ahead has to come from the political hierarchies of both the governments."

There is a platoon-level strength (35 soldiers) stationed in stand-off mode on both sides at Gogra. Once the go ahead comes, soldiers will retreat to a designated position on the ground and will leave a buffer zone as was done in Pangong Tso. In their first step towards defusing tension, India and China had in February had pulled back troops and heavy equipment, including tanks, artillery guns and mechanised vehicles, to create buffer zones at North and South banks of the Pangong Tso.

Also, troops were disengaged from Galwan, which was the site of deadly skirmishes leading to the death of soldiers from both sides.

As reported earlier by this newspaper, officials on the ground had indicated that disengagement could take place both at Gogra and Hotspring (Patrolling Point 15), but a decision was arrived at on one of the two during the last meeting. The Chinese had rushed in soldiers after clashes at Finger 4 in May 2020 and the stand-off deployment was done at both banks of Pangong Tso, Hotspring, Gogra and Galwan. Besides, there was stand-off at Depsang and Demchok.

There are mirror deployments from both sides, with the Chinese moving in four divisions along the Eastern Ladakh. Similarly, the Indian Army has stationed four divisions to counter any movement and also to handle the stand-off deployment.

Other than talks at various levels, the hotline has been used extensively, with up to five calls a day. "Hotline talks between May 2020 and till July have happened 1,450 times," said an official. There have been 12 meetings so far between the Corps Commanders, 10 between division commanders and 55 at the delegation level (sector commanders or Brigadier level) to address the matter.

HOW BUFFER ZONES WORKED AT PANGONG

At Pangong Tso, Chinese troops at North Bank had moved back north of Finger 8 and Indian soldiers retreated close to Finger 3. The area in between became a buffer zone with a temporary moratorium on patrolling from both sides. A similar accord is expected at Gogra

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday | PTI

We have to prepare for 2023 elections, but we also have to ensure good, pro-people administration. For that, we need experience as well as new vigour

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON DCMs, ADMITS BOMMAI

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

IF the BJP Central leadership gives him the green signal, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai could have a council of ministers before nightfall on Wednesday.

It has been a week since Bommai took oath as chief minister. Of the seven days, he has spent five in New Delhi discussing cabinet expansion.

On Tuesday night, Bommai said he will return to Bengaluru on Wednesday morning and will schedule a swearing-in ceremony for his cabinet by evening if the central leadership approves the final list of ministers. Perhaps for the first time, Bommai acknowledged that there were differences of opinion on deputy chief ministers. Party sources suggested that while Bommai has strongly advocated a 'no DCM' policy, the BJP high command is considering alternatives.

"I have decided to schedule the swearing-in ceremony either tomorrow afternoon or evening. All aspects like regional representation, social justice and inclusion of newcomers have been discussed. Party president JP Nadda has taken all the information and sought some clarifications which I have provided. A final word will be conveyed to me tomorrow (Wednesday) morning and I will send the list to Raj Bhavan. If the list is finalised early tomorrow then we will hold a swearing-in ceremony tomorrow. There is little else to discuss," Bommai told reporters after a dinner meeting at Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's residence.

"It is true that there is a difference of opinion on deputy chief ministers. A decision is also pending on how many people should be inducted. Both issues will be addressed by tomorrow. I have left it to the senior leadership to decide," Bommai said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Rahul steps up to fill Oppn vacuum

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

FORMER Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hosted a breakfast meeting for Opposition MPs to possibly stake his claim for their leadership at a later date. By doing so, he tried to end a self-created leadership vacuum, which leaders like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and NCP boss Sharad Pawar had sought to fill in recent weeks.

Rahul had never in the past actively engaged with Opposition leaders inside or outside Parliament. Even within the party, many veteran Congress leaders have been critical of him for not meeting or listening to them on key issues.

Until now, he was rarely part of joint meetings of Opposition leaders even on vital issues like the reading down of Article 370, farm legislation or strategy meetings during Parliament session. In his absence, they were attended by the then Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and his deputy Anand Sharma.

"He is now regularly interacting with MPs from other like-minded parties and attending joint protests by the Opposition in Parliament on issues concerning the people," said a senior Congress MP.

This change in approach is seen as welcome step by many party leaders. They wonder if calls for a united Opposition to take on the Modi government by Mamata and Pawar prodded Rahul to step up the ladder to prevent encroachment in Opposition leadership. "He has held a few meetings with strategist Prashant Kishor and there are discussions to have him (Kishor) in the party or taking his services to overhaul the Congress. This change (in Rahul) could be part of the revamp or due to Mamata and Pawar taking the lead in uniting the Opposition," said another party leader.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a breakfast meeting of MPs from 15 Opposition parties, at the Constitution Club in New Delhi on Tuesday | PTI

FLYING COLOURS

B'luru records 99.96%, stands 2nd in CBSE Class 10 results

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU recorded a pass percentage of 99.96 in the CBSE 10th results on Tuesday. The region stood second in the country after Thiruvananthapuram -- which notched up 99.99 per cent.

The results were announced for 20,97,128 candidates who wrote the exam from 21,467 schools across the country. Of these, 2,00,962 students scored between 90 and 95 percent, while the results of 16,639 are still being processed.

Teachers and parents said the new system of grading, with the final exam being cancelled due to the pandemic, proved disadvantageous to some children. The students were assessed out of 80 marks based on different tests and exams conducted by the school, and 20 marks from internal assessment. "In our school, the individual average has come down from around 93 per cent to 88. Students on the lower academic rung have benefitted from the new system, while the toppers have lost out," said M Srinivasan, founder and chairman of GEAR Foundation.

As unit tests, half-yearly and preparatory exams were taken into account, students who did consistently well benefitted, parents said. "During unit tests, students are still getting into the groove and do not perform well. They take the half-yearly exam more seriously. As there is strict correction for preparatory exams, their marks are generally low," said a parent.

P2

LALU

RJD CHIEF FAVOURS TIES WITH CHIRAG

Lalu Prasad on Tuesday favoured a tie-up between LJP leader Chirag Paswan and his party, and backed the young leader to emerge victorious in his factional fight with his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras

EXPRESS READ

Officer dead in violence outside Pentagon

Washington: An officer died after being stabbed Tuesday during a burst of violence at a transit station outside the Pentagon, and a suspect in the incident was shot by law enforcement and died at the scene, officials said. The Pentagon was temporarily placed on lockdown | PTI

TPR goes below 2%, but situation in 8 states grim

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

INDIA's test positivity rate has fallen below 2% for the first time in three months, but eight states still report high infection rates as shown by the R factor (reproduction rate).

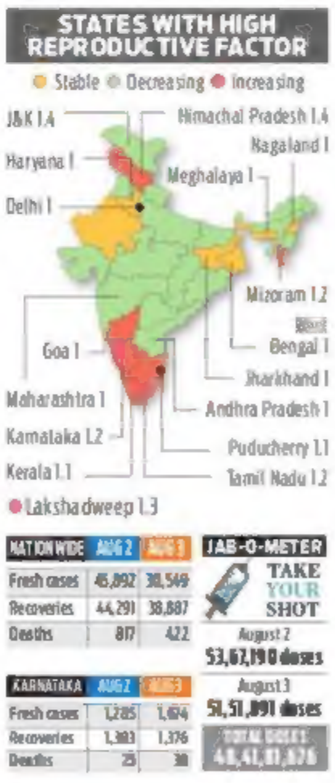
R factor denotes the number of people getting infected by one person. If the R factor value is above 1, it means one person can spread the infection to more than one person which suggests that the infection is spreading.

For India, the highest R values are in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, and Karnataka where this figure is 1.2 or higher.

"We are concerned that some states have the R factor in the wrong direction. It is above 1 and rising, it is truly a cause of concern. The virus wishes to expand. We must curb it," said V K Paul, member (Niti Aayog) and head of the national Covid19 task force.

Authorities in the press briefing by the Union health ministry also shared that there are 44 districts in the country where the Covid-19 case positivity rate is over 10%. These districts are in Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, among others.

According to Chennai-based Institute of Mathematical Sciences, R value of SARS-CoV-2 in India crossed 1 on July 27. The R value needs to be brought down to less than 1 for the virus to eventually stop spreading because it cannot infect enough people to sustain the outbreak.



Covid indicators bad for K'taka as active cases jump

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE test positivity rate in Karnataka is falling, active cases are rising and the recovery rate is sliding, even as the mortality rate has remained static for the last few days, all indicating a worsening Covid situation in the State.

Karnataka's active cases (number of patients currently under treatment) rose from 22,569 on July 28 to 24,280 on Tuesday. The recovery rate, which had seen a high of 98.06 per cent while the first wave was on the wane, has not been able to match that high while managing 97.96 per cent on July 28. Since then, it has been consistently on the decline, reaching 97.90 per cent on Tuesday. Over the last few days, the number of daily cases has been exceeding the discharges, pushing the recovery rate down and increasing the number of active cases.

P3

Fresh to home
WEDNESDAY MARKET
Another Wednesday. Another meaty mid-week sale!
Fresh Products | Best Deals | 90 Min Delivery
Goat (Curry cut) ₹750/kg
Baasa Fillet (Boneless) ₹225/500g
Small Prawns (Cleaned) ₹249/500g
Tandoori Spring Chicken ₹99/500g*
Chicken Samosa (Pack of 4) + Chicken Cutlet (Pack of 3) ₹199*
*Ready-to-cook. GST applicable.
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No Added Chemicals
Order online at: Freshtohome.com
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T&C Apply. All prices except for Ready-to-cook products are inclusive of taxes. Offers valid only for today and till stocks last. Images used are for representative purposes only and may differ from the actual products.

PERFECT GIFT

Lovlina's Olympic glory gets her village a road

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

TAKING note of the lack of basic infrastructure in Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain's village Baro Mukhia, first reported by *TNIE*, the Assam government has started building a motorable road to her village.

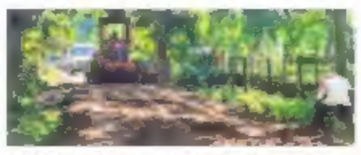
The 3.5-km road will connect Barpathar town in Upper Assam's Golaghat district with the ace boxer's village that has a population of around 2,000. The work started two days ago.

PODIUM TO BETTER LIFE

Prior to her Olympics glory, the locals had highlighted the lack of infrastructure in the village. They were optimistic Baro Mukhia will undergo a transformation like sprinter Hima Das's Kandhulimari village in Nagaon district if Lovlina wins a medal. The medal is now assured, thanks to her entry into the semifinal.

The area falls under Sarupathar Assembly, which has often been represented by the Congress.

Local MLA Biswajit Phukan of the BJP said the kutcha road was being made concrete. A bumpy ride to the village made him decide on building the road.



Work is on in full swing to build a 3.5-km motorable road from Barpathar town in Upper Assam's Golaghat district to Lovlina's village Baro Mukhia

"I was travelling to Lovlina's house the other day after she had stormed into the semis. The condition of the road was very bad after overnight downpour. So, I took a decision to build it and complete it before Lovlina's return," Phukan told *TNIE*.

The state's Public Works Department is executing the road. "We are making it motorable. If money is not sanctioned by the government, I will spend from my pocket," Phukan added.

The MLA admitted the region has a lot of problems in terms of infrastructure.

Lovlina's father Tiken Borgohain said the villagers were happy that the boxer's glory got them a road. "People are very happy to see a concrete road coming up on a kutcha road. I thank the state government and the MLA," he said.